

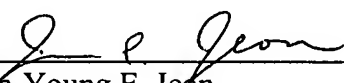
Appln No. 10/812,342
Amdt date October 31, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 4, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12, 17-19, 22, 23, 32, 33 and 38 are now pending in the application, of which claims 1, 17, 22, 32 and 38 are independent. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-12, 18, 19 and 38. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 17, 22, 23, 32 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for confirming on September 6, 2006 over the telephone that claims 17, 22, 23, 32 and 33 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the terms and limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17, 22 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form herein to place claims 17, 22, 23, 32 and 33 in allowable form.

Claims 13-16, 20-21, 24-31 and 34-37 are canceled herein. Since all of the rejected claims have been canceled, Applicant believes that the application is in a condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance with allowable/allowed claims 1-12, 17-19, 22, 23, 32, 33 and 38. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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